Expansion of branches of banks in Bihar

2318. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bihar Government has expressed concern at the slow expansion of the branches of the nationalised banks in Bihar; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) At the Regional Consultative Committee meeting of Eastern Region held on 4th November, 1985. the representatives of State Government of Bihar had expressed the need for opening more branches in Bihar. In terms of the new branch licensing policy for the period 1985 to 1990, co-terminus with the Seventh Five Year Plan, atleast one branch has to be opened for a population of 17,000 in the rural and semi-urban areas of each block. The Reserve Bank of India has decided to revalidate all pending licences for centres falling in deficit blocks upto 30th June, 1986 with a view to facilitate opening of branches in unbanked and underbanked regions. The licensing policy also envisages elimination of spatial gaps so as to ensure that alleast one bank office is located within a distance of 10 Kms. State Government and the lead banks have been asked to identify potential centres for opening of branches. A Task Force has been set up by Reserve Bank at Patna for regularly monitoring the progress made by banks in the matter of branch expansion.

Consultancy Service by NRI Company for the Public Sector Units

2319. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into an agreement with a non-resident Indian company to provide management consultancy service to the public sector units in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof estating the areas stipulated in the agreement for the purpose and how do Government consider the NRI expertise superior to the expertise in the public sector units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Income-Tax and Excise Duty outstanding against M/s. Geep Flashlight Ltd, Allahabad

2320. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what is the amount of incomt-tax and Central excise duty separately, including the interest and fines thereon, outstanding against M/s. Geep Flashlight Ltd. Allahabad and what steps are being taken to realise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): The information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointments in the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)

2321. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the office of the Development Commis-